

## Is Deuteronomy 17:17 a prohibition for a king to have just one wife? By Rabbi Simon Altat

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**Deut 17:17** (KJV) Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

The text is misinterpreted to make it appear like that a king cannot multiply wives but this is not so. Any king acting righteously was allowed to have at minimum 2 wives to place in the North/South divided as a ruling King and there was no upper figure so Kings determined the choice of wives according to what they desired and need. For instance King Dawud had eighteen wives and many people who love to sing his psalms are the same people who oppose plural wives. The lack of instruction in the body of Messiah is what is killing people's desire to learn the truth and causing friction.

This has been corrected and footnoted in the Abrahamic-Faith Hebraic Study Scriptures as follows.

**Debarim 17:16-17 (AFNHSS) 16** But he shall not accumulate horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Mitzrayim (Egypt), to the end that he should accumulate horses: forasmuch as אִתָּךְ has said unto you, You shall henceforth return no more that way. **Neither shall he greatly increase many wives** for himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he increase a great amount of silver and gold for himself.

This is the same principle as in verse 16. The king can have many wives because Israel was a polygamous society and that is the only way they could multiply and increase the seed in the earth. Ruling chiefs always placed two wives in the North/South divide see research done by Alice C. Linsley at Just Genesis for thirty-three years on this at <http://jandyogenesis.blogspot.com>.

The idea here is that you must not increase wives to forget YHWH. You could have 5 wives or 15 wives and that would not be a problem as long as you could provide for their needs and be able to serve YHWH righteously. This does not break the concept of Yesod Ha Briah, which is the idea of men who runs towards asceticism and not YHWH.

The case of King Solomon having one thousand wives shows us the problem was not the 1000 wives contrary to most scholar's and their opinions or biases but the fact that some of King Solomon's wives turned his heart away from YHWH because they were heathen. So even if you being a believer marry a non-believer, and she turns your heart away from Elohim as can happen then that one wife is too much. Then what is the alternative? Not to marry. No, you should marry but seek godly wife and seed.

We have a perfect example in scripture of this one wife, who caused folly in Israel with King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. She did more damage in Israel bringing in Baalism than any other woman. Proving that one wrong wife was too much. Whereas if King Ahab had married twenty righteous women there would have been no problem.

Context is important. In Israel the argument is not whether polygamy is allowed or not but it is a reality we live. Even in the coming messianic kingdom there will be polygamy. See Isaiah 4:1, which tells us that the ratio will be seven women to one man.

May YHWH bless you  
Shalom Shalom

Rabbi Simon Altaf

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Simon Altaf was chosen by God for the special End-Times prophetic calling. A lone voice in the wilderness, one taught by God (Ps 119:120-121), a Messianic Rabbi and writer. He from the tribe of Levi, the original Semites called out of Islam to rejoin His people after his long exile.

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